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Bangalore Mirror

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Pollution Board approval to 13 industries making compostable products has got environmentalists riled up as without proper segregation, transportation these too will end up in landfill

LIVING IN THE PLASTIC AGE

Compostable bags, which are permitted in other states, are banned in Karnataka

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A list of compostable products and manufacturers approved by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) being circulated has got activists worried.

The list has approved up to 13 industries, of which 12 are in Bengaluru, to manufacture compostable plastic items.

Experts say these are industry-level compostable plastic materials and in the absence of an organised aggregation, segregation, and transportation mechanism in place, these compostable materials will ultimately reach landfills.

"These bags are made up of corn starch and are industrially compostable plastic. To ensure they are disposed of scientifically, a well-established transportation, segregation, and aggregation mechanism has to be put in place. In the absence of that, these bags will also end up

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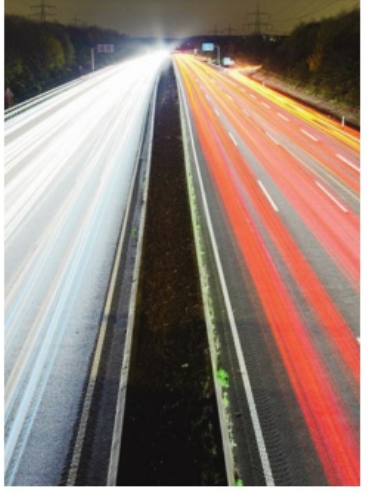
ZOOM PAST

'Weekend traffic to airport resembles race track until Devanahalli'



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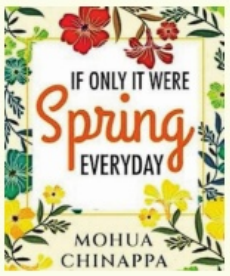
2 THINGS TO DO

01 Abstract art

Explore the themes behind Andrew Paul's exhibition, 'Transcending Surfaces,' a visual dialogue on perception, memory, and materiality at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Gallery 1 and 2. Paul's artistic journey is not just about creating art—it's about creating connections, evoking emotions, and inspiring introspection. His work is a testament to the power of passion and the transformative potential of art, leaving an indelible mark on the canvas of contemporary expression.
Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
When: Until May 15, 10:30 am to 7 pm

02 Read on

Get to know the unheard tales in 'If Only It Were Spring Everyday,' by Mohua Chinappa. The stories that the author collects while working with women pour into a rhythm of expression, honouring the unheard voices. From the garlanding of the criminals of Bilkis Bano to the Manipur violence and the destruction of our Mother Earth, Mohua's poetry echoes the truth around us and reflects our collective anger and pain. **Where:** Urban Solace—Cafe for the Soul; **When:** May 14, 7:30 pm to 9 pm



Extra marks move: No grace in that, say schools

Irregularities in education system discourage students, convenors critique emerging corporate cultures, stress on need for streamlining education system

The recent SSLC results, where 'too many' grace marks were provided to boost students, have drawn the wrath of the private schools. Many schools joined hands on Monday to criticise the move, stating that the standard of education had taken a hit with such decisions.

Shashi Kumar D, general secretary of the Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka and convenor of the Karnataka Private School Managements, Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff Co-ordination Committee, said, "The education department's move of awarding grace marks to increase the pass percentage in the state presents a moral issue rather than an act of misdeed." He urged the education department to take up the responsibility of improving the quality of education in the state in order to strengthen the future generation. Undermining the youth's abilities and not allowing them to reach their full potential is a sign of gross negligence; it must be corrected in order to empower students of all strata of society.

The school principals highlighted the need for the National Curriculum Framework-2005 (NCF-2005) guidelines and frameworks to be put into action to gear school education towards producing an equality of outcome across all education boards and setups. They also urged serious enforcement of the Karnataka Education Act and Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act in our state in alignment with the need to improve the quality of education. "The undisciplined state of the education system in the state, coupled with the emergence of age discrepancies in birth certificates under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), an increasing number of unregistered educational institutions, and an out-of-date syllabus, contributes to the deepening of the issue. This crisis in the educational system manifests itself in various forms, like the increasing cases of substance abuse amongst youth, social media/video game addiction, and increased vehicular deaths. These oversights and their repercussions were discussed by the various organisations present," Kumar said.

The experts present at the press meet also shed light on various ways in which the education system fails students. Finally, convenors remarked upon the emerging corporate culture in the education sphere with the establishment of 'integrated coaching centres' that provide training to students beyond the textbook syllabus and are focused on preparing them for state/nation-wide entrance exams like NEET, IIT-JEE, KCET, etc. "Official circulars issued by the government must be enforced upon these training centres to curb their profit-making tendencies. Experts have urged for the standardisation of textbook curricula across the country, which will include a syllabus that equips students with the knowledge needed for competitive exams as well. This streamlining of the educational system will ensure equal opportunities for students belonging to diverse socio-economic backgrounds and encourage students of the state board to feel at par with students of various school boards," Kumar added. **–Ankita Govind**

File photo of students checking their SSLC results

"The education department's move of awarding grace marks to increase the pass percentage in the state presents a moral issue rather than an act of misdeed
–KAMS secretary Sashi Kumar D

BangaloreMirror
Education controversies in 2024
From SSLC to CET, examination irregularities stir turmoil; integrity of evaluation processes questioned amidst ongoing uncertainty

BM's report on May 13 discussed examination irregularities, evaluation processes

Ganguly named brand ambassador for Beurer India

Beurer India Pvt Ltd has appointed former cricketer Sourav Ganguly as its brand ambassador. The company has also unveiled a Made in India Blood Glucose Monitor aimed at aiding diabetes management. "Our objective is to introduce cutting-edge and high-quality products that not only fulfill but surpass the health monitoring needs of our customers," stated Stanley Joseph, Director of Beurer India. Salil VS, Managing Director and CEO of Beurer India, expressed, "Ganguly's partnership with Beurer goes beyond symbolism. It plays a central role in our strategy to strengthen our rapport with Indian consumers. His widespread respect, trust, and influence as both a sportsperson and a leader make him an ideal ambassador to increase the visibility of our innovative health solutions." Ganguly remarked, "Health and well-being have always been close to my heart. The new blood glucose monitor epitomises our goal of making health monitoring accessible and dependable for everyone."

Celebrating birthday with green twist

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Akshaya Jayakumar, a resident of Cooke Town, celebrated her son Kairav's first birthday by planting some saplings at Sundaravana, an urban jungle near Somasundarapalya. "The climate change and the heat wave in Bengaluru have encouraged me to contribute something to the environment. I wanted to plant saplings in my area, but there is no guarantee of their survival. I came to know about Sundaravana through one of my friends," she said.

Jayakumar said that she felt very happy and satisfied after visiting Sundaravana on Sunday. "I managed to procure only 15 saplings on Sunday for planting. I paid Rs 400 for each sapling and got assurance from the volunteers to look after them. I want to plant 100 more saplings next year on the occasion of my son's second birthday," she said.

Residents and environmentalists have appreciated Jayakumar for taking such a noble decision to make a good and valuable contribution. "Many parents celebrate their children's birthdays by cutting cakes and hosting lunch or dinner. If all of us plant a sapling each on our birthdays, the city will become green. I appreciate Akshaya for giving a wonderful gift to Mother Earth on this special occasion," said BL Lalitamba, an environmentalist.

KP Vijay Kumar, a core member of the Sundaravana Team, said there are 14,500 saplings in Sundaravana that are spread over two acres of land. "We are taking care of saplings by visiting Sundaravana in the morning and evening. I am very happy to see families visiting Sundaravana and planting saplings. A few corporate employees also planted saplings here. Earlier, it was a dump yard for all types of waste. We converted it into a Miyawaki forest," said Kumar, adding that he felt very happy when Jayakumar told him that she found the right place (Sundaravana) to plant saplings.

Meanwhile, Dr AN Yellappa Reddy, an environmentalist, commended this gesture and said, "If all youths come forward to plant saplings while celebrating their birthdays, it will be a great contribution to Mother Earth. It will reduce the accumulation of carbon and can prevent global warming."

Emphasising the need to select the right place for planting saplings, Suresh Heblikar, an environmentalist, said that Bengaluru needs more saplings as it lost many trees to facilitate infrastructure development. "Saplings should not be planted wherever space is available because all lands are not suitable for them. It is very important to look after the planted saplings for two years," he added.

Akshaya Jayakumar and others at Sundaravana, near Somasundarapalya

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Kanaka Sarovara water quality deteriorates

Sewage infiltrates rejuvenated lake; citizens demand infrastructure upgrades

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Residents of Kalkere and lake activists have expressed concern over the deteriorating quality of water in Kanaka Sarovara in the KR Puram Assembly constituency. They want the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department to take measures to ensure no sewage enters the lake that was rejuvenated a few years ago.

They complain that dirty water entered the lake through a stormwater drain a few days ago, thus deteriorating water quality in the lake. They are of the opinion that the huge amount spent on the rejuvenation of the lake would serve no purpose if dirty water entered the lake.

"Many trees fell down due to the recent rain. The water body is full of weeds. I want the authorities to engage a contractor to remove water hyacinths from the lake. I am happy with the rejuvenation of the lake, but the authorities have to provide basic infrastructure including lights and CCTV cameras at the lake," said Satish Chandra, former president of Kanakagiri Nivasigala Sangha.

It is said the wetland of the lake is yet to be developed, and the BBMP Lakes Department has to take measures to prevent dirty water from entering the lake. The residents, who visit the lake for a walk, said that the drains around the lake have to be cleaned to ensure rainwater flows into the lake.

"I agree that the BBMP Lakes Department spent a considerable amount on the rejuvenation of the lake, but the need of the hour is to ensure that no deterioration of water quality occurs. The walking path should be levelled to avoid the stagnation of water during the monsoon. Water puddles on the walking path make it difficult for walkers," said Sindhu John, a resident.

A resident, on the condition of anonymity, said that he was very happy when the lake was rejuvenated but was shocked to see fish dying due to pollution.

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) Bhuprada said that the tender has already been floated to remove silt from the wetland of the lake and all the pending works would be completed within a few months. "A work order has already been issued to a contractor to remove the silt. I expect the work to commence shortly. The BBMP has allocated Rs 8 crore for desilting the wetland and strengthening the waste weir. Fencing the lake will begin shortly. All the efforts will be made to maintain the lake," said the BBMP executive engineer.

Sewage has infiltrated Kalkere Lake

> **The walking path should be levelled to avoid the stagnation of water during the monsoon. Water puddles on the walking path make it difficult for walkers**
>
> –Sindhu John, a resident of Kalkere

Arson threatens Banashankari 3rd Stage

Citizens distressed as deliberate fires devastate flora and fauna; urgent appeals for authorities to halt environmental menace

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Miscreants set fire in Banashankari

The tranquillity of Banashankari 3rd Stage is under threat as miscreants continue to set deliberate fires, resulting in the loss of precious flora and fauna. Citizens near Ittamadu, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Hosakerehalli, who observed the incident, have voiced their concerns over the alarming frequency of these incidents, which pose a significant threat to both the environment and public health.

Harish KB, representing People for Animals, highlighted the severity of the situation, stating, "Very frequently fire is being lit in these areas. And it is causing a health hazard while even affecting the citizens around. This apart, there are many peacocks in the surrounding areas which are being affected due to the fire. Most of the trees are being lit and burnt." Harish's statement underscores the urgent need for action to protect the local wildlife and prevent further damage to the ecosystem.

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has taken cognisance of the residents' complaints and has written to the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) to intervene immediately. The AWBI emphasised the importance of safeguarding the wildlife in the affected areas and urged the KFD to take swift action against the perpetrators. Additionally, the AWBI requested that the KFD provide updates on the actions taken to address the issue and ensure the safety of the local wildlife.

Residents of Banashankari 3rd Stage have expressed their distress over the recurring incidents of arson, which have resulted in the destruction of trees and the displacement of wildlife, particularly peacocks. Harish said, "It is heartbreaking to witness our beautiful surroundings being ravaged by these senseless acts of vandalism. The fires not only pose a danger to our health but also threaten the biodiversity of our neighbourhood."

Harish added, "The peacocks are a beloved sight in our area, and it's devastating to see them suffering due to the fires. We urge the authorities to take immediate action to apprehend the culprits and put an end to this environmental menace."

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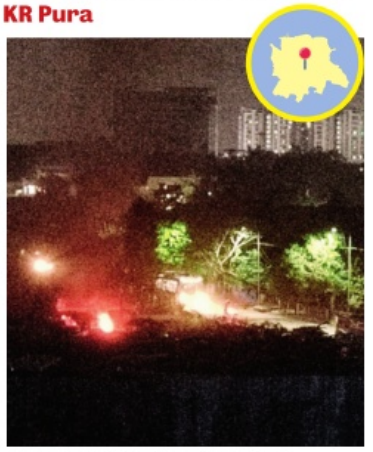
Branches out
Nandini Layout

All the branches of trees in front of a building have been completely chopped off by a builder at the Jai Maruthi Nagar Junction. Additionally, debris has accumulated at the junction of five busy roads and has not been cleared for the past six months.

Stop garbage burning
KR Pura



Heaps of garbage, including plastic and rubber waste, are burning behind the BBMP office. This has become quite common nowadays, with no government officials taking action to prevent it.

Pavement perils
JP Nagar

There are no footpaths along 9th Cross, 2nd Phase (opposite Diwakar Hospital). This stretch along the eastern side is a pedestrian's nightmare during the day, with haphazard parking and no proper drainage for rainwater.

Lose control: Motorists race way past speed limit on road to airport

Reckless driving unabated; citizens call for stricter fines, enforcement to prevent accidents, pile-ups on crucial stretch

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Airport Road

Despite warnings from the Bengaluru Traffic Police Department about hefty fines for "zooming beyond 80 km/h" on the Airport Road, incidents of speeding and accidents continue to occur.

Dave, a biker, stated that every weekend, superbike riders reach speeds of 150-200 km/h, followed by sports cars. Any accident or pileup could lead to delays in airport traffic, causing inconvenience for many people trying to reach the airport.

"People should follow traffic rules and regulations, including delegates and investors from other countries. One should be much more careful when driving or riding. I saw reckless driving yesterday where everyone was racing around, including cabs.

"Fines should be as stringent as those for drunk driving, set at Rs 10,000, for everyone. All biking and car clubs should take note and ask members to follow the rules on tours to Chikkaballapur side

This is unsafe for others and puts forward the wrong impression of Brand Bengaluru and India," he said.

He added that dash-cam footage shows how weekend traffic to the airport resembles more of a race track until Devanahalli.

"Even electric vehicles are overspeeding over 110 km/h to the airport. Fines should be in the range of Rs 10,000 for over-speeding on the International Airport route. Fines should be as stringent as those for drunk driving, set at Rs 10,000, this would work for everyone. Additionally, all biking and car clubs should take note and ask their members to follow the rules on any weekend tours to the Chikkaballapur side," he added.

According to data from the traffic police, 81 accidents occurred on the International Airport Road in 2024 as of April.

According to the data, 26 people were killed on that road and 71 were injured. Citizens say that accidents often occur due to inexperienced drivers and two-wheeler riders.

"It's crucial for every road user to stay attentive while driving or riding to prevent mishaps and accidents. Unfortunately, many individuals involved in accidents flee the scene, possibly because they lack a driver's permit or are engaging in unauthorised use of the vehicle," opined a citizen.

Another resident added that "fining can indeed be effective in reducing the number of cases, especially when coupled with a system that records repeat violations by both vehicles and individuals. While some may argue for harsher measures like damaging vehicles, such actions are not permissible within legal bounds."

UPI issue fixed: BMTC

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has admitted that QR code/UPI functionality was temporarily disrupted in BMTC buses due to the upgrade of the Safety and Security features of the Canara Bank Payment app.

"The issue is resolved, and the functionality is operational. Now commuters can make payments through UPI Payment," said a BMTC spokesperson.

Srinivas Raju, a regular commuter, said, "Embracing UPI in BMTC buses is not just a convenience; it's a transformative step towards modernising our public transport system. By integrating UPI payment methods into BMTC services, we can revolutionise the commuting experience for millions of passengers across Bengaluru. Firstly, UPI adoption simplifies the payment process. This not only saves time for commuters but also streamlines the boarding process, reducing queues and congestion at bus stops.

Raju said that UPI integration promotes financial inclusion by providing a digital payment solution accessible to everyone, including those without bank accounts or traditional payment methods.

"This inclusive approach ensures that all commuters, regardless of their financial background, can easily and securely pay for their bus fares, enhancing accessibility to public transport services. Additionally, UPI acceptance in BMTC buses enhances transparency and accountability in fare collection.

Digital transactions leave a clear audit trail, reducing the potential for fare evasion or revenue leakage. This benefits both the transport authorities and passengers by ensuring fair and accurate fare collection, ultimately contributing to the sustainability and efficiency of the public transport system." **BMB**

Bus passengers give thumbs down to BMTC's UPI payment facility

BM's report on the BMTC UPI payment being dysfunctional

No traffic, more green

Segments of highway closed for vehicles couple of years ago, have higher number of tree species

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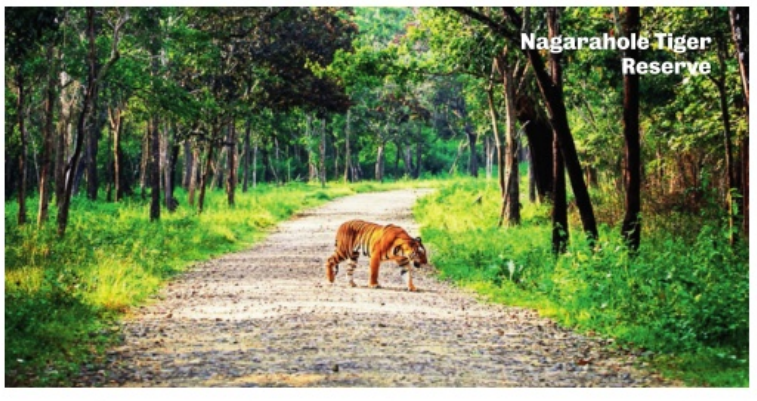
The segment of State Highway 33 passing through Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, which was closed for vehicles a couple of years ago, has a higher tree species count than the other stretch which is closed only for nighttime traffic. This was the finding of a study conducted by scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehradun, which has been highlighted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

The assessment aimed to understand the impacts of the highway on the flora and fauna of Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. The study looked at the difference in the impact of SH 33 along its two stretches – one that is completely closed to traffic (decommissioned segment) and the other stretch that is closed for nighttime traffic (night traffic closed segment).

Researchers found that tree species composition and richness were higher in the decommissioned road segment compared to the night traffic closed road segment. On the other hand, shrubs and herbs had higher species richness in the night traffic closed road segment. According to the researchers, this can be attributed to the edge effect. Moreover, the invasive species cover of Lantana and Eupatorium, was higher in the area devoid of traffic. "This can be attributed to increased light intensity on the forest floor due to lower canopy cover in the decommissioned road segment and higher animal activity, which acts as seed dispersers. Lower canopy cover in decommisioned segments can result from the breakage of the canopy and crushing of new regeneration by the presence and activity of large mammals, like elephants," noted the study.


Nagarahole Tiger Reserve

Wildlife researchers and conservationists say outcomes from such studies show that national parks or protected areas should not be considered for infrastructure projects. "Any traffic is not good for forest areas, especially tiger reserves. No new linear project proposals inside forest areas should be sanctioned. We took up a study a couple of years back on the number of road kills on SH 33 and during our study, we counted nearly 800 wildlife, including keystone species, dying in road kill," said Ramesh Belagere, a wildlife researcher at the Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

"Proposals such as road widening and elevated highways in protected areas should be rejected from the outset," said Giridhar Kulkarni, a wildlife conservationist.

Clogged drains turn into mosquito hotspot

Debris-filled roadside drains raise concern over health, safety during monsoon

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Residents of Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar of Vignana Nagar ward in KR Puram Assembly constituency are worried about their health as some of the roadside drains have been clogged with debris and silt for quite some time, resulting in the stagnation of water that has become a breeding place for mosquitoes.

The residents said that they have been complaining to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) engineer to take measures to make roadside drains free from silt and debris, but nothing has been done till date. They said that if the BBMP authorities fail to engage a contractor to clear silt and debris from the roadside drains, they fear that the monsoon may flood their homes and the roadways. "Generally, the BBMP authorities take up the cleaning of roadside drains in the summer. However, they did nothing in March and April on one or the other pretext. The pathetic condition of drains has become an eyesore. I want the authorities to do something to keep the drains free from garbage and debris," said Stephen Joseph, a resident of LB Shastri Nagar.

Expressing a similar opinion, Shakeer T, a shop owner, said that stagnated water has become not only a nuisance but also a health hazard. "There is a lot of silt and debris in the roadside drains, and it causes stagnation of water, which is dirty and stinky. It will be a great help if the authorities concerned take measures to fix this problem," said Shakeer.

Drain condition, water stagnation at one of the roadside drains at Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar

Stating disappointment and disgust over the BBMP authorities' apathy, Lakshapathi P of the Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA) said, "I have already sent pictures of the roadside drains to the BBMP engineer, hoping that the drains will be cleaned. I want the roadside drains to be cleaned to ensure the flow of water without any hurdles. Cleaning of roadside drains will avoid stagnation of water or flooding during the monsoon," he said.

SG Nagaraj, former corporator of Vignana Nagar ward, said that the BBMP engineers are not working hard to avoid inconvenience to the residents during the monsoon. "Most of the drains are filled with silt, garbage, and debris. Many residents have complained about the pathetic condition of roadside drains. I have asked the BBMP engineer to engage a contractor to keep the drains clean, but nothing has been done. I am worried about the fate of residents of LB Shastri Nagar during the monsoon," added Nagaraj.

Meanwhile, BBMP engineer Jadhav said that the BBMP has already engaged a contractor to keep the roadside drains clean. "The contractor is supposed to clear drains and also remove debris. I will fix this problem in a few days," added Jadhav.

City students shine bright in CBSE results

Bengaluru students showcased impressive performances as the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced the class 10 and 12 results on Monday. Nationally, over 11,000 Class 10 students achieved a flawless score of 100 in Mathematics, while painting emerged as the subject with the most students (10,402) scoring full marks in Class 12, as per CBSE's announcement on Monday. In Class 10, a notable 11,253 students achieved perfection in 'Mathematics Standard,' with Sanskrit and Artificial Intelligence following closely behind, with 6,700 and 6,269 candidates, respectively, achieving a perfect 100. In Class 12, Chemistry and Psychology also saw significant achievements, with 2,152 and 2,134 students, respectively, scoring a perfect 100.

The pass percentage for Class 10 rose to 93.60, marking a 0.48 percentage point increase from the previous year. Similarly, the pass percentage for Class 12 saw a marginal rise of 0.65 percentage points, reaching 87.98 per cent.

CBSE officials credited this improvement to the incorporation of competency-based questions in this year's exams, contributing to a better overall performance among students. The trend of impressive scores was also evident in the number of students scoring above 90 and 95 per cent. In Class 12, 1.16 lakh students scored above 90 per cent, with 24,068 achieving scores above 95 per cent. Among them, 262 students belonged to the Children with Special Needs (CSWN) category, and 43 of them scored above 95 per cent. These figures represent an increase compared to the previous year, demonstrating a consistent upward trajectory in academic excellence.

Similarly, in Class 10, over 47,000 students scored above 95 per cent, and more than 2.12 lakh students scored above 90 per cent. These numbers surpassed the previous year's achievements, showcasing the dedication and hard work of students across the board. **-BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

State beaches see drastic decline in foreign tourist arrivals

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Karnataka is blessed with natural beaches all along the Arabian Sea. In fact, many of these beaches have been receiving a lot of domestic and foreign tourists of late. However, this year, there seems to be a drastic decline, especially in the Uttara Kannada district. The noticeable decline in the number of foreign tourists is primarily attributed to the scorching hot weather conditions and the ongoing geopolitical tensions such as the Iran-Israel and Russia-Ukraine conflicts.

Before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, India typically welcomed around 1.79 crore foreign tourists annually, a trend that has somewhat persisted post-pandemic. However, this time, there has been a noticeable drop in foreign tourist arrivals to Uttara Kannada, which used to be a favoured destination among Russian tourists. The adverse impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, coupled with the intense heat and humidity prevalent along the coastal areas, has deterred many foreign visitors.

"Moreover, local tourism has also been affected, partly due to the election season and the scorching hot winds prevalent in the region. April, typically a time for exams, naturally sees a dip in tourist numbers, but this year, the decrease has been more pronounced. Travellers have expressed disappointment over the reduced presence of out-of-state tourists, attributing it to the staggered election schedules. The situation is particularly noticeable in Gokarna, where the usual influx of foreign tourists has dwindled significantly. This decline has impacted even those domestic tourists who frequented Gokarna to witness the foreign visitor culture. Weekends, usually bustling with activity, now seem quieter due to the reduced tourist footfall," said Sandesh Prabhu, a local.

File photo of Gokrana beach

Local businesses, especially those in the hospitality sector, are feeling the effects of this decline. Hotel owners report decreased occupancy, attributing it to the scorching heat and the halted scuba diving activities in Murudeshwar. The delay in tender processes and technical issues related to the Election Code of Conduct have also played a role in disappointing tourists eager for water adventure sports during the summer months. "Despite these challenges, there is optimism that tourist numbers may pick up in the coming months as the weather moderates and election-related disruptions subside. However, stakeholders are keenly observing the situation and hoping for a return to normalcy soon to revitalise the tourism sector in Uttara Kannada," said a local.

Rain pain: All hands on deck

Disaster management teams at sub-divisional levels to help in case of rain-related damage

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Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is now planning to deploy 'Disaster Management Teams' at the sub-division level within its zones to manage potential disasters during the rainy season. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "During the ongoing rainy season, there are many challenges, such as rainwater infiltration into low-lying areas, the risk of manholes opening, tree and electricity pole falls, and other rain-related disasters in various sub-divisions across BBMP. So, BBMP along with BWSSB, BESCOM, Metro and Fire teams will be part of the disaster management teams to address these concerns comprehensively."

The scene at a railway underpass on Old Madras Road at Benniganahalli on Friday

Rainy days

Over the past week, rain has been intermittently affecting different parts of the city, ranging from normal to moderate downpours, with reports of widespread rainfall. Nath said proactive measures had ensured swift drainage of water from approximately 150 inundated areas within just two hours. Regarding tree falls, Nath noted that 325 trees had fallen due to the rains, with 320 already cleared, alongside 698 branches of which 650 had been addressed. Currently, 39 teams are clearing fallen trees and branches, with instructions to promptly dispose of debris left on roadsides. Nath emphasised on the need for permanent solutions in flood-prone areas, with 124 already addressed and the remaining 74 areas requiring swift temporary measures followed by permanent solutions.

"To tackle drainage issues, each ward has a dedicated budget of Rs 30 lakh for side drain dredging during the rainy season. Additionally, a reserve of Rs 10 crore has been allocated in the annual budget for disaster management under the Brand Bangalore concept, focusing on new flood-prone areas," he said.

Tech innovation

The installation of 124 water-level sensors along Rajakaluves in collaboration with KSNDMC, monitored at the BBMP's Integrated Command Control Center (ICCC), the 'Bangalore Megha Sandesh' app and 'Varunamitra' website were also introduced to provide citizens with vital rainfall and flood forecast information, he added.

BBMP seeks proposals from corporates for lake rejuvenation

The BBMP has set itself a target of rejuvenating 185 lakes in Bengaluru limits within the next four years. Speaking at a webinar, organised by Bangalore Chambers of Industry and Commerce (BCIC), Preeti Gehlot IAS, Commissioner, Forest, Environment and Climate Change (FECC), BBMP said that while Bengaluru has 202 lakes within BBMP limits, the remaining 17 lakes are beyond rejuvenation or have been significantly encroached upon.

"There are several challenges that we face including encroachment, sewage inflow, solid waste dumping etc. In certain cases, there is chemical inflow as well. These factors, along with inadequate funding and lack of staff and interdepartmental synergy affect proper planning. Lack of technical knowledge including proper understanding of the geography and geotechnical aspects also contribute to the slow development of lake rejuvenation. We have also set up a Bangalore Climate Action Plan within BBMP to work on a comprehensive plan to take up initiatives that have long term effects," she said.

She added that while BBMP has submitted its Community Involvement Lake Conservation Policy 2024 to the High Court, they are inviting corporates, individual bodies, or resident welfare associations to come forward with proposals to contribute in terms of assets and maintenance for the preservation and rejuvenation of lakes in the city.

"Beautification is not the priority. Proposals must have clarity of funding along with the backing of a technical team for us to start the screening process. Our focus is on implementation," she said.

> **"BBMP along with BWSSB, BESCOM, Metro and Fire teams will be part of the disaster management teams**
>
> –Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP

Prajwal case: 'Ensure safety of survivors'

A delegation from 'Naveddu Niladiddare', a coalition of groups working on gender justice, met the Karnataka State Commission for Women Chairperson on Monday and submitted a memorandum in terms of steps to be taken to ensure proper investigation into the case of sexual violence by Prajwal Revanna.

The delegation has demanded the commission to immediately prevail upon authorities concerned, including the judiciary, to direct all online platforms and digital search engines to de-index, and take down the videos and images in order to protect the safety and dignity of survivors. "Circulation and distribution of this content online and offline must be strictly forbidden, and stern legal action must be taken against those who circulate the videos or images of the women survivors. Circulation of the videos amounts to various offences under the IPC – Voyeurism (IPC 354C), Disclosure of the identity of the victim (IPC 228A), Sale etc of obscene material (IPC 292) and is also an offence under Section 67A of the Information Technology Act. Write to the SIT to ensure that an FIR is registered against those who initially circulated the videos, and those who continue to circulate them," the memorandum addressed to the chairperson noted.

It demanded the commission to ensure protection of the identities of survivors as well as adequate safety and security to all the women who have faced sexual abuse, who have complained, are likely to complain and are potential witnesses in the case, as per the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018. It also advocated for necessary psychological, medical, financial and legal support to them.

Bail to HD Revanna

JD(S) leader and Karnataka MLA, HD Revanna, who was arrested in connection with the kidnapping case linked to the 'obscene video' case, was on Monday granted conditional bail by a special court of people's representatives.

The judge granted conditional bail to Revanna, on a Rs 5 lakh bond.

— Rachana Ramesh

Not a drop of Cauvery water has reached these areas

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Despite the rainfall in Bengaluru and water-logging at places, some areas in Whitfield have not received any water supply for months. These residents would have been completely dependent on water tankers if not for rainwater harvesting.

According to the India Meteorological Department, from March 1 to May 12, Bengaluru Urban received 38.1 mm of rainfall and Bengaluru Rural received 38.9 mm of rainfall, but these areas are not getting a single drop of Cauvery water supply despite being covered under BWSSB's network. BWSSB has been claiming that the water crisis would be fixed by extending the Cauvery network with the operationalisation of Stage V.

Residents of these areas have complained to BWSSB, but nothing has changed and now their dependence on water tankers is normalised.

"For the past two months, we haven't received a single day of water supply. We have become completely dependent on water tankers. Previously, we used to get supply from municipal water supply and then was replaced by Cauvery supply. A stretch of Borewell Road continues to get both supplies. Before we used to get water supply twice a week for 2-3 hours but now we have become completely dependent on water tankers. We have a rainwater harvesting system and hence we are getting a 14,000-litre water tanker per week at the cost of Rs 3,100. We are given excuses like pipes are broken, etc but the water bills are issued regularly. Despite my husband being a defence official, we are not getting any water supply," said Mary, a long-time resident of Borewell Road.

> **"We are dependent on 5,000-litre water tankers every 10 days and are buying it for around ₹1,200**
>
> –Rajesh TM, Outer Circle resident

Another resident living in the Outer Circle also spoke about the issue. "Since February, we haven't received any water. Before we used to get a water supply, at least once a week. Now we are dependent on getting 5,000 litres water tankers once every 10 days and are buying it at Rs 1,200-1,300. Officials complain that the water pipelines were damaged while carrying out some BESCOM work and that there is reduced water pressure," said Rajesh TM.

A type of plastic surgery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in landfills," said V Ramprasad, a city-based solid waste management expert.

Interestingly, last year, KSPCB, through a notification, had warned manufacturers, suppliers, transporters, and the general public of penal action if they make or use biodegradable and oxo-biodegradable plastic items. The Board had urged people to not use single-use plastic disguised as compostable, biodegradable, and oxy-biodegradables. It further added that the government of Karnataka has issued notification regarding plastic carry bags made of polymer-based bio-degradable and compostable and all thickness carry bags are banned within Karnataka.

"Earlier when some parties showed CPCB's approval for their product, we would tell them that while they have national-level clearance, the rules around plastic waste in Karnataka are more stringent. Compostable bags, which are permitted in other states, are banned in Karnataka and the more stringent rule superseded. However, it is confusing to see KSPCB's stamp for industries selling compostable bags," said Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, a citizen volunteer group.

Through Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules 2021, the Government of India prohibited the manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of several single-use plastics (SUPs) from 1st July 2022. Rule 10 of PWM Rules 2016 "Protocols for Compostable Plastic Material" has been substituted with "Protocols for Compostable and Biodegradable Plastic Materials" through Draft PWM Rules 2022. The rule states that Biodegradable Plastics shall be as per the appropriate Standards developed by Bureau of Indian Standards.

Verification test

The central pollution watchdog has also come up with a quick verification test to distinguish compostable plastics from conventional plastics.

As per CPCB, one such method is to dissolve a 2x2 cm film sample or a few granules in Dichloromethane (DCM). Conventional plastic will not undergo dissolution.

However, experts say such testing is difficult to be carried out with limited lab facilities.

"Does KSPCB have enough resources to conduct such tests on samples provided by citizens? Moreover, using plastic bags made up of corn starch sounds like a luxury when there are people who don't get two meals a day. KSPCB should focus on reducing plastic pollution by encouraging the use of reusable products such as cloth bags," added Ramprasad.

Cricket experience for seniors

Manipal Hospitals, the official health partner for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), orchestrated an uplifting experience for 20 senior citizens and their loved ones at the IPL match between RCB and Delhi Capitals held at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

The aim was to infuse joy and excitement into the lives of senior citizens, a demographic often excluded from stadium experiences due to health concerns and logistical challenges associated with attending lengthy matches. Many families hesitated to bring them to such events, unsure of how to ensure their well-being throughout the game. With this in mind, Manipal Hospitals reached out to 20 senior citizens, assuring them that their health parameters would be thoroughly checked and their medications monitored before entering the stadium. Each participant was given a wristband for easy identification, and with the assistance of the RCB team, provided an exclusive entry point into the stadium that was less crowded.

Speaking on the initiative, Karthik Rajagopal, Chief Operating Officer, Manipal Hospitals, said, "We are delighted to have provided an exclusive match-day experience to senior citizens. It was heartening to see them relive their youth and enjoy the match without any worries."

In another heartwarming gesture, Manipal Hospitals and Richard Daniel, made International Mother's Day unforgettable for Navajyothi, a cricket enthusiast battling Parkinson's disease. She was diagnosed with the disease recently at Manipal Hospital under the care of Dr. Manjunath Mahadevappa, Consultant - Neurology, Movement Disorders, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road. Despite initial setbacks, Navajyothi has shown remarkable improvement in her symptoms, filling her family with renewed hope and joy.

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I, PURUSHOTHAMA S/o Sannarangegowda, R/at No. 307/9, Gokula 1st Stage, 5th Cross, 13th Main road, H M T Layout, Near Post Office, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore-560022 have changed my name to PANDURANGA, vide affidavit dated 13.05.2024 before notary Renuka C, B.lore.

I, Rahul Bhora S/O Kamal Jain Bohra residing at JP Nagar 5th Phase Bengaluru, have changed my name to Rahul Kamal Bohra vide affidavit dated 11th May 2024 at Bengaluru.

I, Chetana Burad Jaisingh Burad W/o Akshay Jain aged about 35 years R/At 106, SMR Castle, Banaswadi Main Road, Dodda Banaswadi, Kalyannagar Post, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Chetana Jain vide affidavit dtd:10/05/2024 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K,B'luru

I, Manjunatha Suresh Kulkarni R/o Flat No B 107, Sohan Silver Springs, Basapura Main Road, Electronic City Phase 1, Bengaluru- 100 have changed my minor daughter's name from Nuhana Manjunatha Kulkarni to Adhya Manjunatha Kulkarni .

I, Srividya Sudarsan W/o P P Sudarsan R/o A-2H Aratt Rollingwhites Anekal Main Road Byagadadenahalli Anekal B'lore-562106 have changed my name to Srividya Kaylot Sathyan for all purposes.

I, Bibinkumar Mani, S/O Mani Nallepilly Ayyusamy residing at NO. 28, Sree Gokulam, 1st B M N, Best County-2, Chikkabettahalli, Vidyaranyapura Bangalore 560097, have changed my name to Bipinkumar Mani for all future purposes

I, Kiran Devi Jain w/o Praveen Kumar Gumanmalji R/o 63, Flat.302 5th flr, Jain Vivanta Sky, Magadi main Rd, Bengaluru 560023 have changed my name to KIRAN DEVI affidavit Dt.13/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Lalit Kumar S/O, Om Prakash Tyagi R/o No. A101, Hoysala Commanders Galleria-2, 3rd Cross, Near Balamuri Temple, Tata Nagar, Bangalore 560092 have changed my name to Lalit Tyagi for all purposes.

I Geetha Kethamaranahalli Nanjundappa W/o M S Indresha R/o #87,Shivashakthi Layout, Achith Nagar, Soladevanahalli, Bangalore 560107 have changed my name to Geetha Kethamaranahalli Nanjegowda for all purposes.

I Mahesh Vira S/o Damji Tejas Shah R/o No 16 Comfort Apartment Flat No 002 Ganganagar Rt Nagar Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Mahesh Damji Vira for all purposes.

I, Girija Vikram W/o Vikram Govinda Pillai R/o #115, Sulikunte Gate, Sarjapura Main Road, Bangalore 562125 have changed my name to Raghavanpillai Bhargaviamma Baby Girija for all purposes.

I, Neha Nilesh Kumar Vora R/o No.76, 1st floor, 12th E main road, Rajajinagar, 6th block, Bengaluru 560010 have changed my name to Neha Nilesh Vora Affidavit Dt.13/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Savitha Somashekar W/o Somashekar Venkata - swamappa R/o 224,arehalli, subramanyapura Post, B'luru 560061 have changed my name to Savitha Somashekar Kariyappa for all purposes.

I Shobha.t.r W/O, Nagaraja.s.c R/o Flat-b.101,kkr Amr Ruby Apartments,hmt Main Road, Hmt Layout,jalahalli, Bengalur560013 have changed my name to Shobha Nagaraja .

I Girisha Sondekoppa Lingaiah S/o Lingaiah R/o #734 ,1st Flr, 2nd Cross, Kamala Nagar, B'luru-560079 have changed my name to Girish Sondekoppa Lingaiah for all purposes.

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HEALTH TIP: Women can include dairy products, leafy greens, fortified foods, and supplements if necessary to meet their calcium and vitamin D needs

Antioxidants found in beetroot, particularly betalains, have anti-inflammatory characteristics that may help reduce inflammation, oxidative stress

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ONE DRINK TOO MANY

Neurobiologist explains how research on alcohol use disorder has shifted

With the new Amy Winehouse biopic "Back to Black" in U.S. theaters as of May 17, 2024, the late singer's relationship with alcohol and drugs is under scrutiny again. In July 2011, Winehouse was found dead in her flat in north London from "death by misadventure" at the age of 27. That's the official British term used for accidental death caused by a voluntary risk.

Her blood alcohol concentration was 0.416%, more than five times the legal intoxication limit in the US – leading her cause of death to be later adjusted to include "alcohol toxicity" following a second coroner's inquest.

Nearly 13 years later, alcohol consumption and binge drinking remain a major public health crisis, not just in the UK but also in the US.

Roughly 1 in 5 U.S. adults report binge drinking at least once a week, with an average of seven drinks per binge episode. This is well over the amount of alcohol thought to produce legal intoxication, commonly defined as a blood alcohol concentration over 0.08% – on average, four drinks in two hours for women, five drinks in two hours for men.

Among women, days of "heavy drinking" increased 41% during the Covid-19 pandemic compared with pre-pandemic levels, and adult women in their 30s and 40s are rapidly increasing their rates of binge drinking, with no evidence of these trends slowing down. Despite efforts to comprehend the overall biology of substance use disorders, scientists' and physicians' understanding of the relationship between women's health and binge drinking has lagged behind.

I am a neurobiologist focused on understanding the chemicals and brain regions that underlie addiction to alcohol. I study how neuropeptides – unique signaling molecules in the prefrontal cortex, one of the key brain regions in decision-making, risk-taking and reward – are altered by repeated exposure to binge alcohol consumption in animal models.

My lab focuses on understanding how things like alcohol alter these brain systems before diagnosable addiction, so that we can better inform efforts toward both prevention and treatment.

The biology of addiction

While problematic alcohol consumption has likely occurred as long as alcohol has existed, it wasn't until 2011 that the American Society of Addiction Medicine recognised substance addiction as a brain disorder – the same year as Winehouse's death. A diagnosis of an alcohol use disorder is now used over outdated terms such as labeling an individual as an alcoholic or having alcoholism.

Researchers and clinicians have made great strides in understanding how and why drugs – including alcohol, a drug – alter the brain. Often, people consume a drug like alcohol because of the rewarding and positive feelings it creates, such as enjoying drinks with friends or celebrating a milestone with a loved one. But what starts off as manageable consumption of alcohol can quickly devolve into cycles of excessive alcohol consumption followed by drug withdrawal.

While all forms of alcohol consumption come with health risks, binge drinking appears to be particularly dangerous due to how repeated cycling between a high state and a withdrawal state affect the brain. For example, for some people, alcohol use can lead to "hangxiety," the feeling of anxiety that can accompany a hangover.

Repeated episodes of drinking and drunkenness, coupled with withdrawal, can spiral, leading to relapse and reuse of alcohol. In other words, alcohol use shifts from being rewarding to just trying to prevent feeling bad.

It makes sense. With repeated alcohol use over time, the areas of the brain engaged by alcohol can shift away from those traditionally associated with drug use and reward or pleasure to brain regions more typically engaged during stress and anxiety.

All of these stages of drinking, from the enjoyment of alcohol to withdrawal to the cycles of craving, continuously alter the brain and its communication pathways. Alcohol can affect several dozen neurotransmitters and receptors, making understanding its mechanism of action in the brain complicated.

Work in my lab focuses on understanding how alcohol consumption changes the way neurons within the prefrontal cortex communicate with each other. Neurons are the brain's key communicator, sending both electrical and chemical signals within the brain and to the rest of your body.

What we've found in animal models of binge drinking is that certain subtypes of neurons lose the ability to talk to each other appropriately. In some cases, binge drinking can permanently remodel the brain. Even after a prolonged period of abstinence, conversations between the neurons don't return to normal.

These changes in the brain can appear even before there are noticeable changes in behavior. This could mean that the neurobiological underpinnings of addiction may take root well before an individual or their loved ones suspect a problem with alcohol.

Researchers like us don't yet fully understand why some people may be more susceptible to this shift, but it likely has to do with genetic and biological factors, as well as the patterns and circumstances under which alcohol is consumed.

Women are forgotten

While researchers are increasingly understanding the medley of biological factors that underlie addiction, there's one population that's been largely overlooked until now: women.

Women may be more likely than men to have some of the most catastrophic health effects caused by alcohol use, such as liver issues, cardiovascular disease and cancer. Middle-aged women are now at the highest risk for binge drinking compared with other populations. When women consume even moderate levels of alcohol, their risk for various cancers goes up, including digestive, breast and pancreatic cancer, among other health problems – and even death. So the worsening rates of alcohol use disorder in women prompt the need for a greater focus on women in the research and the search for treatments.

Yet, women have long been underrepresented in biomedical research.

It wasn't until 1993 that clinical research funded by the National Institutes of Health was required to include women as research subjects. In fact, the NIH did not even require sex as a biological variable to be considered by federally funded researchers until 2016. When women are excluded from biomedical research, it leaves doctors and researchers with an incomplete understanding of health and disease, including alcohol addiction.

There is also increasing evidence that addictive substances can interact with cycling sex hormones such as estrogen and progesterone. For instance, research has shown that when estrogen levels are high, like before ovulation, alcohol might feel more rewarding, which could drive higher levels of binge drinking. Currently, researchers don't know the full extent of the interaction between these natural biological rhythms or other unique biological factors involved in women's health and propensity for alcohol addiction.

Looking ahead

Researchers and lawmakers are recognizing the vital need for increased research on women's health. Major federal investments into women's health research are a vital step toward developing better prevention and treatment options for women.

While women like Amy Winehouse may have been forced to struggle both privately and publicly with substance use disorders and alcohol, the increasing focus of research on addiction to alcohol and other substances as a brain disorder will open new treatment avenues for those suffering from the consequences.

(Nikki Crowley, Penn State, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Breast cancer risks

Obesity, high BP
A higher score of metabolic syndrome (MetS), defined as being obese along with high blood pressure, elevated blood sugar, or abnormal cholesterol, can raise mortality risk among women suffering from breast cancer, according to a study on Monday.

Mortality risk
The findings, published by Wiley online in CANCER, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society, indicate that MetS and obesity each have different associations with breast cancer subtypes and mortality risk.

Study
The analysis was based on 63,330 postmenopausal without prior breast cancer, as well as normal entry mammograms and MetS scores (0-4). After a median follow-up of 23.2 years, there were 4,562 incident breast cancers and 659 deaths from breast cancer (breast cancer mortality).

MetS score
Researchers found that a higher MetS score (3-4), regardless of obesity, raised the risk of poor prognosis, oestrogen receptor (ER)-positive, progesterone receptor (PR)-negative breast cancers, and a 44 per cent higher risk of breast cancer mortality. On the other hand, obesity, regardless of MetS score, led to more good prognosis, ER-positive, and PR-positive cancers.
Only women with severe obesity had an elevated risk of death from breast cancer.

Higher mortality
"Postmenopausal women with higher MetS scores are a previously unrecognised population at higher breast cancer mortality risk," said lead author Rowan T Chlebowski, The Lundquist Institute in California, US.

How to check
Rowan noted that MetS scores can easily be determined during routine visits at any healthcare facility by checking "cholesterol, diabetes, and hypertension history as well as waist circumference and blood pressure measurements," and can be treated. —IANS

Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

2 9 = 1883; 4 7 = 2853
6 5 = 3031; 8 3 = ____

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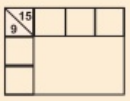
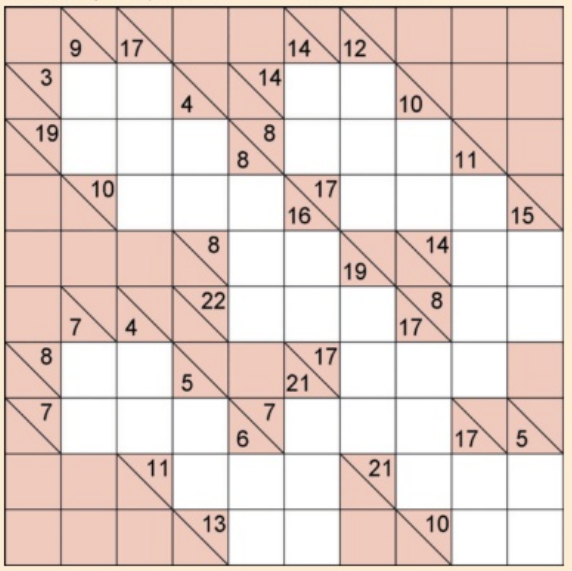
Kakuro

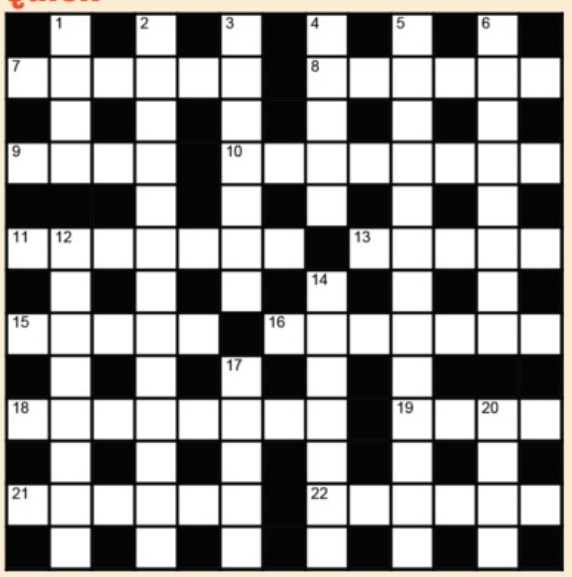
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Environment or surroundings (6)
8 Sloping type (6)
9 Musical phrase (4)
10 Capital of India (3,5)
11 Brussels is its capital (7)
13 Holiday spot in Karnataka (5)
15 ___ work : be a lazy person, in a way? (5)
16 Plays or competes against? (5,2)
18 Trade or business (8)
19 A card game – "task" anagram? (4)
21 Hello singer ___ Ritchie (6)
22 Erstwhile (6)

DOWN

1 A prefix meaning "of small size or length" (4)
2 Deformity (13)
3 Attendance (7)
4 Opinions (5)
5 Bespoke (4,2,7)
6 Until now (8)
12 African country (8)
14 Depart hastily? (4,3)
17 Sincerely or genuinely (5)
20 Skater's leap (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS G
UBLBZRURLW TG MYTLZ WXTLZG QTZXW; ORBMRQGXTH TG MYTLZ WXR QTZXW WXTLZG.

Linemaro

I don't drive a car, but I'd love to walk you home!

Mindchow

We must believe in free will...we have no choice

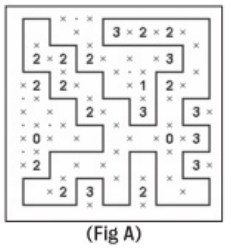
Joke of the day

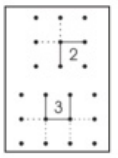
No day is so bad it can't be fixed with a nap

Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

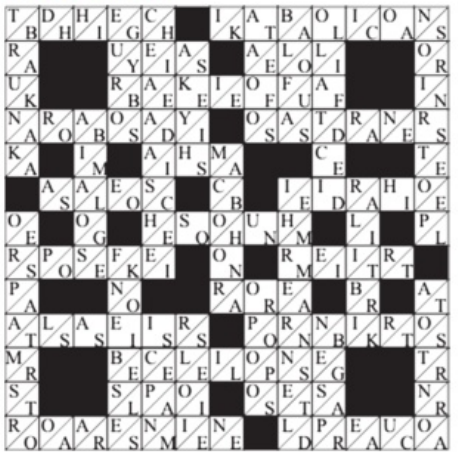

(Fig A)


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

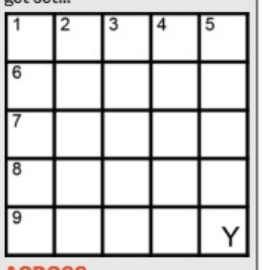
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

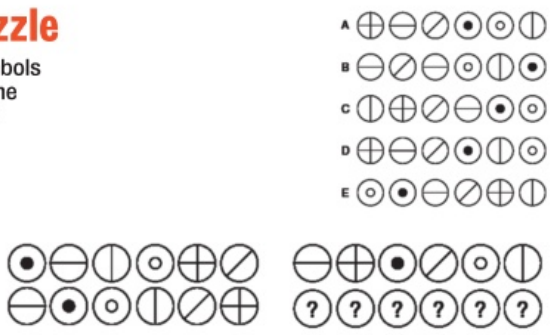
1 S Rips; 6 Olent;
7 No Nan; 8 Is Ten;
9 Cry me

DOWN

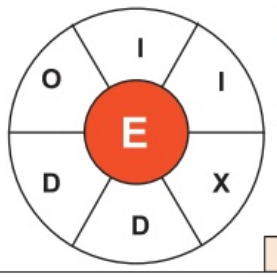
1 Lamps; 2 Terne;
3 Niner; 4 Cost I;
5 NY son

Mensapuzzle

Which set of symbols should replace the question marks?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; **04** Good; **05** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	1						3	
8				6	5			4
		4		7		9		
	8			9				
	9	5	6		8	2	7	
				1			4	
		7		3		6		
1			4	2				5
	6						8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5
2 3 5 5

Medium = 8
3 6 6 7

Hard = 27
2 7 8 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

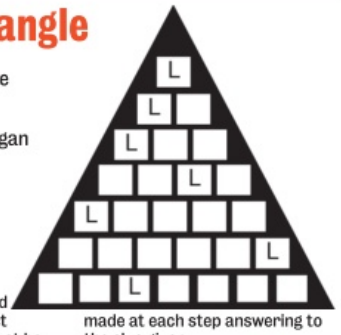
Differences: 1. Rag is different. 2. Puddle is different. 3. Tire is not showing. 4. Pail handle is lower. 5. Trunk lock is lower. 6. Rear window is different.

Riddler

I race in a circle, Always to the right. From Zero to Sixty, In the blink of an eye. I rarely stop, Save for a wind or a juice. Reliable I am, Reliant are you.

Alpha triangle

1 Learner's plate
2 51 in ancient Rome
3 Fib
4 Very bad
5 Bile producing organ
6 Nonsense
7 Hand over

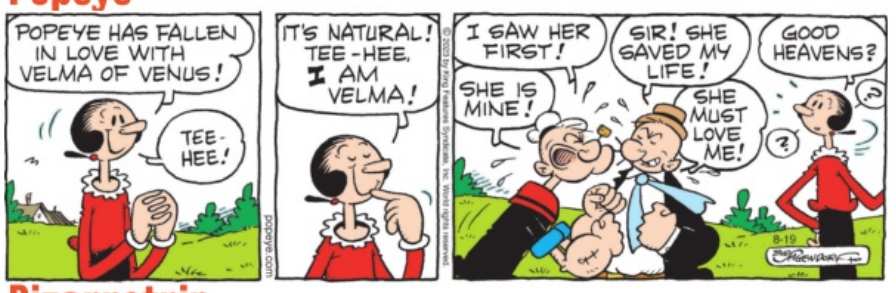


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel some positive vibrations around you, which may show you the right path. With peace in mind, your performance on every front may be noticeable. You may plan to visit a religious place and donate to charity. You may also hear some good news in terms of grandchildren.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel some internal weakness. Some major health issues may reoccur. You may not be able to enjoy your day on a domestic and professional front, but situations will be better with the elder's blessings. Running projects may stop unexpectedly, which may make you upset. You are advised to drive safely.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you. Things are under control, and you may plan to start a new business as a partnership. You may expect some long-distance travel as well. You will have faith in your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a good day for you. Investors may make good gains in their investments, which may boost their financial health. Money that was stuck may be recovered, which may increase liquidity in the business. You may become confident and gain control over hidden enemies and opponents. Singles will likely find their match.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and may not be able to take on your responsibilities. Your investments may cause you some losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature on them. Parents health may make you upset. You may also plan to reconstruct your office.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may plan to migrate from your current place to another place, so it is advised to think twice before taking decisions regarding a change of place. You may also plan to change jobs. There will be peace in your mind, but your kids' health might make you upset. It is advised to avoid speculation in investments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may have good patience. Meditation may help you increase your concentration, which may help speed up your project. An influential person may help you boost your network. Your subordinates may cooperate with you, which may help you complete the project before the deadline.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy with family get-togethers and social events. You may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your prestige among them. You may spend money on buying some artefacts or household items, which may improve your social status. You may likely hear some good news from your relatives.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be happy and blessed by the moon; you may feel healthy, which may reflect in your way of working. You may perform well in all areas of your life, which may improve your prestige. Your concentration may be very good today, but you may make some difficult decisions in your business.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your vital power may slow down, and your old disease may reappear, which may make you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure tours or rush driving. You are advised to avoid any type of ligation; you may settle it out of the jury. You may also plan for some work-related tours.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may start your day with happiness. At work, you may make quick decisions, which may increase your management skills and have benefits in the near future. You may expect some new source of income, which may boost your savings. With the help of your business partner, you may invest some money in the business.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy at your office. Due to mental exhaustion, you may not be able to give time to your family. With the help of the elder's blessings, job seekers may get a high position, and managers may get promoted to top management. You may get rewards, which may increase your status.

KIDZONE

Ambika SP, 8 years, Ekya School

Harsha DA, 14 years, MEG High School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
2×9=9×9+2=1883
4×7=7×7+4=2853
6×5=5×5+6=3031
8×3=3×3+8=2417

BULL'S EYE
died, diode, DIOXIDE, lodide, oxide

FAST FIVE

P	R	I	S	S
A	N	N	O	N
S	T	E	I	N
L	E	N	T	O
M	E	R	C	Y

STRIKE OUT

O	A	R	S	M	E	N	■	D	R	A	C	O		
T	■	L	A	O	■	S	E	A	■	R	■	■		
R	■	E	C	L	I	P	S	E	■	X	■	■		
A	S	S	E	S	■	O	R	B	I	T	S	■		
P	■	N	■	R	O	E	■	B	■	A	■	■		
S	P	E	K	E	■	O	■	M	E	I	R	■		
E	■	G	H	O	H	U	M	■	L	■	P	■		
A	L	E	C	■	B	■	I	D	A	H	O	■		
K	■	I	■	A	S	A	■	E	■	T	■	■		
N	O	B	O	D	Y	■	S	A	T	A	N	S		
U	■	R	A	K	E	O	F	F	■	N	■	■		
R	■	Y	E	S	■	A	L	I	■	O	■	■		
T	H	I	G	H	■	I	T	A	L	I	A	N		

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		

MENSA PUZZLE
D: each pair of symbols has been swapped round.

RIDDLER
A second hand on a watch.

QUOTE UNCODE
Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.

SUDOKU

6	1	9	2	8	4	5	3	7
8	7	3	9	6	5	1	2	4
2	5	4	3	7	1	9	6	8
4	8	1	7	9	2	3	5	6
3	9	5	6	4	8	2	7	1
7	2	6	5	1	3	8	4	9
5	4	7	8	3	9	6	1	2
1	3	8	4	2	6	7	9	5
9	6	2	1	5	7	4	8	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, Ll, Lle, Vlle, Liver, Drivel, Deliver.

LOOP
Easy
3 + 2 + 5 − 5 = 5
Medium
6 + 6 + 3 − 7 = 8
Hard
2 × 6 + 8 + 7 = 27

KAKURO

3	2	1	4	9	5	8	6	7
9	7	5	8	6	3	1	2	4
1	6	4	2	7	9	5	3	8
2	4	9	1	3	8	7	5	6
7	5	8	6	2	4	3	9	1
6	3	2	7	5	1	4	8	9
8	9	6	5	1	7	2	4	3
4	1	7	3	8	2	9	7	5
5	8	3	9	4	6	7	1	2

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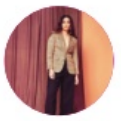


Gender neutral style— Actress Sonam Kapoor flaunted her "killer" style as she shared pictures looking classy in a gender-neutral outfit. Sonam took to her Instagram wearing a Ralph Lauren jacket, black pants, and formal shoes

Mum's the word

Alia opens up about her plans for Raha

Alia Bhatt, who is now a mom to Raha since 2022, talked openly with her mom, Soni Razdan, about handling work and parenting.
The actress shared her thoughts on her childhood experiences and her plans for Raha, like not letting her leave home at a young age like she did at 23.

In an interview with The Nod Mag, Alia said that she remembered when she was pregnant and shooting in London for 'Heart of Stone', she couldn't sleep for three days because she felt so guilty about how maybe she wasn't a good enough daughter.

Adding to the statement, Soni said that Alia works hard on her mental health, but there are days she feels anxious about not picking up her calls or giving them any attention.

Alia mentioned that when she was 23 and busy with acting projects, she hardly got to spend time with Soni. The actress said that she was barely 23 when she moved out of the house. She'd be away on long shooting schedules, and sometimes people wouldn't even know which city she was in. So that was a defining point in her life and their relationship. Alia added she does feel she left home too soon and she won't let that happen with Raha.

During their conversation, Soni shared how sometimes she felt more like Alia's manager than her mother. She said that in those days she remembers feeling less mom and more like a manager. Alia barely spends five minutes with her in the morning for tea. However, Soni expressed her happiness with their current relationship and acknowledged the changes. She emphasised her respect for Alia's privacy and her desire for Alia to find her path in parenting.

— ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

On unemployment

Dr Rajkumar and Kalpana-starrer Kannada movie Gandhinagara, directed by veteran director KSL Swamy was released more than five decades ago. Now, a muhurat puja was held for a movie with similar title – Gandhinagara – at NR Film Institute recently. The film's tagline is – Illi Yaaru Gandhigalilla. The movie is to be directed by SH Nagesh Raitha who owns NR Film Institute.

Nagesh said the students of NR Film Institute are acting in this movie while Balaji Rao, one of the students, is playing the lead. "Our movie Gandhinagara has no relevance to Gandhinagar in Bengaluru, that is known as the hub of Kannada film industry. The movie revolves around unemployed youth at a village – Gandhinagara - named after Mahatma Gandhi. The movie intends to convey a message to society on the ill-effects of unemployment," said Nagesh Raitha.

He said that he has been providing training in acting and other departments for many students.

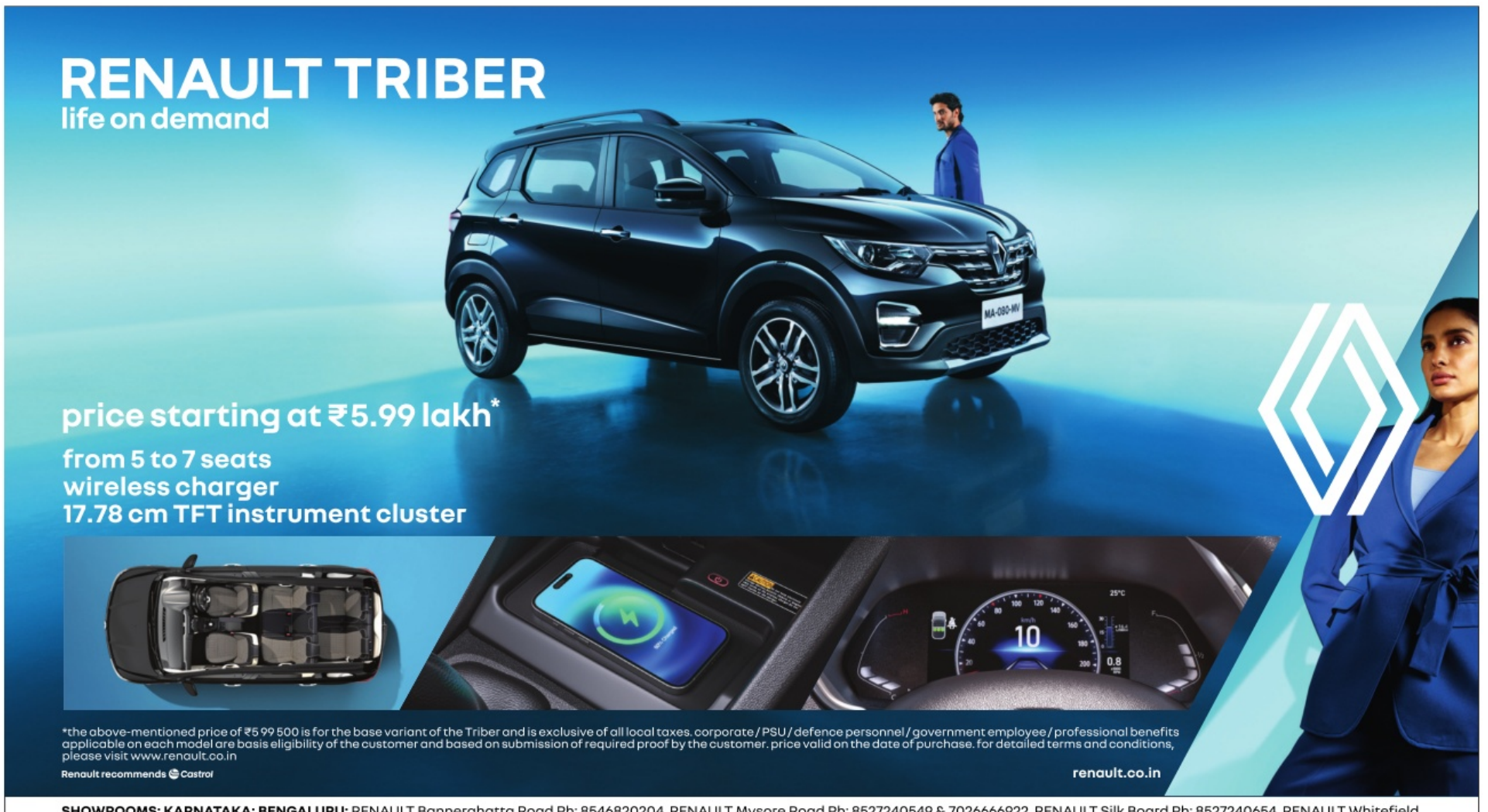
Dad directs sons

Character actor Prasanna Kumar aka Jangli Prasanna Kumar, who has acted in more than 100 Kannada movies, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with Rana Haddu. His sons Shashank and Suraj play key roles – one as the hero and the other as the villain – in this movie. A function was held to release the audio of Rana Haddu. It is scheduled for release on May 17.

Dr Rajkumar's daughter Lakshmi Govindaraj lit the lamp, while Govindaraj and producer SA Chinne Gowda, Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president NM Suresh launched the audio of Rana Haddu.

Prasanna Kumar, who is also bankrolling the movie, said he has been associated with Sandalwood for more than two decades. "I and my family are indebted to the Kannada film industry for providing sustenance all these years," he said.

On how he came up with the idea, he said was injured in a road accident a few years ago. "I came up with the idea of directing this movie while recuperating from injuries. I narrated it to my sons who not only supported my ambition of becoming a director but also agreed to act in this movie which highlights how society treats a person with no money," he said.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